

IN THE DRAWINGS:

A Letter to the Official Draftsman is attached with proposed drawing corrections to Figure 4.

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet of Fig. 4.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15, 16, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kritzer in U.S. Patent No. 6,382,358 in view of Fitzroy in U.S. Patent No. 289,905. Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krtizer in U.S. patent No. 6,382,358 in view of Fitzroy in U.S. Patent No. 5,967,443. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krtizer in U.S. Patent No. 6,382,358 in view of Fitzroy in U.S. Patent No. 289,905 as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Fang et al. in GB Publication No. 2285035. Claim 22 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 17, 18 and 27 were allowed.

The rejection in the Office Act in view of Kritzer, in U.S. Patent No. 6,382,358, does not say anything about the fact that two deflection rollers are provided at the opening element of the present invention, and over these deflection rollers a cable or chain is lead which is lead in the shape of an S over these rollers. The result of the present claim 1 is that the locking unit includes or comprises two deflection rollers. As the Examiner uses Fitzroy (U.S. Patent No. 289,905) and states that such an object is not shown in Kritzer and tries in this way to justify the missing inventive activity

of the present invention. The deflection rollers in Fitzroy's citation are arranged at the platform and not at the locking element. This leads inevitably to the fact that here the deflection roller locking unit or the locking element is not operated via the cable or chain guide but by a weight. This will occur in Fitzroy's citation only when either the chains are not tensed because of weight transfer on the hanging platform or when both chains break. Then the weight W will move the locking element of Fitzroy, caused by gravity, into a catching position. However, this does not exclude that maloperations may actually occur here, and, because of jams of the chain or both chains, here serious problems of safety may occur. A safety technique of this kind cannot guarantee that an engaging of the safety element or the locking element is guaranteed in each position and in each location of the platform when an unintended downward movement of the platform occurs.

The reasoning used to state that it is obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the result of the present claim 1 because of the combination of the solutions of Kritzer and Fitzroy is not convincing. Why should one of ordinary skill in the art knowing the solution of Kritzer, arrange the two rollers over which the cable or chain is guided at the locking unit or the locking element itself, if one sees that in Fitzroy's citation that the deflection rollers there are arranged at the platform and are not guided over the locking element. The chains of the load receiving means are

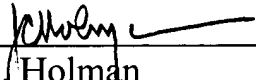
guided over the deflection rollers, and here only one, namely the exterior, chain is guided over both deflection rollers so that here also the result is an S-like guide. However, the combination of the solution according to Kritzer, where a spring and rope operated locking element is shown, and the solution by Fitzroy, where a rope guide over deflection rollers at the platform is shown, does not lead to the subject matter of the present claim 1 according to which the deflection rollers are provided at the locking element, and the cable or chain is guided over these two rollers and then, of course, also over the locking element.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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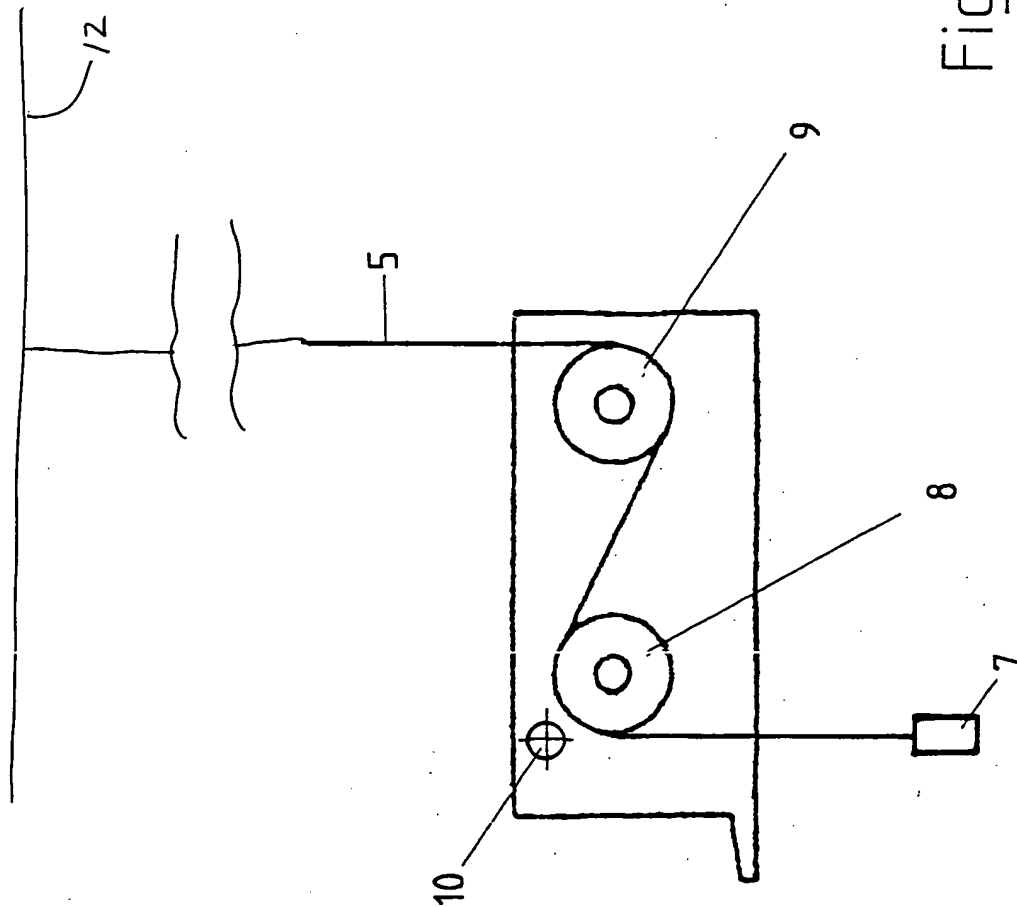


Fig.4